

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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Polygraph**4/166/OKL*

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21 January 1986

The Honorable Patricia Schroeder
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Civil Service
Committee on Post Office and Civil Service
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

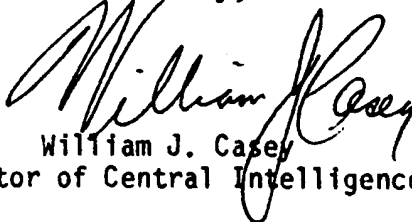
Dear Madam Chairwoman:

This is in response to your letter of 6 January 1986 concerning the CIA's use of polygraph examinations. I assume that your interest is in determining the effectiveness of the polygraph and not in the specifics of any given case.

As you point out in your letter, CIA does have a reinvestigation program under which all employees are subject to background reinvestigations and additional polygraph testing. Agency policy calls for such reinvestigation activities every five years. We have succeeded in polygraphing 85 percent of our employees during the last 10 years. Competing demands on limited investigative and polygraph resources have prevented us from reaching 100 percent of our employees and, unfortunately, Mr. Chin was one of those missed. Until we get the resources we need, our priorities for investigations and polygraphs are (1) new applicants; (2) employees completing their 3-year probationary period; (3) employees returning from overseas; and (4) employees who have not been reinvestigated in the last five years.

Your second question relates to the polygraph procedures used in 1970 and the procedures used today. Over the years, the CIA polygraph program has gone through many evaluations and some changes. All aspects have been affected, including polygraph instrumentation, polygraph examiner selection and training, examination techniques, and the Quality Control procedures. The aim of these efforts has always been to achieve the highest level of professional performance.

Sincerely,


William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

cc: Chairman, House Permanent Select
Committee on Intelligence

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Retyped: aw (15 Jan 85)

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